Application No. 09/863,095

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 12 has been amended to correct the typographical error noted in the Office Action. No narrowing amendment is intended. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 2. By this Amendment, new claim 16 is added. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.
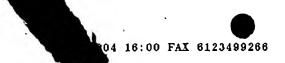
An IDS providing a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,873,076 is submitted herewith.

The objections to the drawings are noted. Formal drawings will be submitted upon an indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections – Section § 103

Claims 1-5 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,636,853 (Stephens Jr.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,177,936 (Cragun). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Stephens Jr. describes an enhanced searching capability that focuses on the ability to have a client instruction program (302) cluster responsive information based on selected characteristics of the information returned with the search results. The entire focus of the disclosure of Stephens Jr. is on building a single, combined table-based graphical user interface (GUI) that is presented to the user for interaction. Figs. 5a-5f of Stephens Jr., for example, show a GUI that has a single combined table with the various characteristic buttons (522-532) from the search being presented at the top of the window and the results of the search being presented in a single table (534) at the bottom of the window with a slider bar control. Stephens Jr. describes how control of the search results presented in table 534 (the second portion of the display) is controlled by user interaction with the various buttons (522-532) (the first portion of the display). Although there is relatively little discussion in Stephen Jr. of submitting search requests to multiple sources of information, it is clear that the server program instructions (304) of Stephen Jr. act like a conventional meta-search engine to combine

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search results for delivering those results to the client program instructions (302) that have the responsibility for presenting those results to a user in a combined form as part of a single display.

In contrast, Cragun describes a browser that "displays multiple web pages in *multiple windows in a parent-child hierarch on a display screen.*" (Col. 2, lines 7-8). The focus of Cragun is on presenting a visual map to a user of the parent-child relationship among multiple web pages displayed while navigating through a given website. The cascade button 727 described by Cragun visually presents the crumbs of the trail left by a user in navigating a given website to quickly show the user where they have been. These "trail crumbs" are presented as *multiple* overlapped smaller windows in a single display with the overlapping of the multiple windows signifying the parent-child relationship among the windows. Unlike Stephen Jr. which is expressly directed to presenting search results, Cragun is concerned with web navigation.

With respect to claims 1 and 13, contrary to the assertions in the Office Action, Cragun does not show the claimed cascade of claims 1 or 13 because Cragun does not teach the display of "a cascaded series of pages of content information within a <u>single</u> window frame." The cascaded series of claims 1 or 13 of the present invention is cascaded in time, not space, because the content information must be presented "within a <u>single</u> window frame." Cragun teaches multiple overlapped windows cascaded in a single display space and presented all at one time.

It is also respectfully submitted that there is no motivation for the proposed combination of Cragun with Stephen Jr. and that the proposed combination would actually negate the expressed advantage of Stephen Jr. The entire teaching of Stephen Jr. is about presenting results in a single GUI that provides a user with control options for displaying results based on the various characteristic buttons (522-532). Because the advantages of Stephen Jr. arise only when the search results are presented in a single display and the user can selectively control the display of results within that single display based on manipulating the various characteristic buttons, there is no motivation to present information in the manner as described by Cragun.

Even if there were some motivation to combine Cragun with Stephen Jr., it is respectfully submitted that the combination does not arrive at the claimed invention.   Instead, the combination would provide a display that simultaneously presented multiple, partially space-overlapped windows of different search results – the very type of meta search engines described in the background section of the prior art where search results are presented in multiple new simultaneously overlapped browser windows as shown by gogettem.com or searchspaniel.com, or in multiple simultaneous side-by-side browser windows as taught by katiesoft.com. Such a combination does not meet the claimed limitation of presenting results as "a cascaded series of pages of content information within a single window frame."

With respect to claims 2 and 3, it is respectfully submitted that Stephens Jr. does not teach having a program on a server that encodes the search result information into a markup language. It is clear that the building of the table by Stephens Jr. is accomplished at the client in the form of a thick-client process as shown at steps 416 and 418 on Fig. 4. The client program instructions 302 of Stephens Jr are "implemented as a standalone executable program, or they may be included as an extension to a web browser, such as a Java applet that is executed through an application programmer's interface (API) in web browser 114." (Col. 6, lines 54-58). As such, there is no teaching or suggestion of having the server encode the search result information at the server in the form of a thin-client approach that utilizes a markup language to accomplish the encoding.

With respect to claims 4 and 5, it is respectfully submitted that the concept of an "iframe" as used and intended by the present invention is not the secondary navigation bar 64 as discussed at page 11 of the specification. Iframes (short for inline frames) are known to a person of ordinary skill in the art as an embedded markup language (HTML, XML) command for creating inline frames within a single browser window. (see HTML 4.01 specification, Section 16, December 29, 1999). Because Stephen Jr. does not teach utilizing markup language, there is

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simply no discussion or reference in Stephen Jr. to the concept of iframes or their use as taught and described by the present invention.

With respect to claims 14 and 15, it is respectfully submitted for the reasons previously discussed that neither Stephen Jr. nor Cragun describe an arrangement for having a server package a response as a time-cascaded series of content information pages for display by a browser.

Claim Rejections – Section § 102

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,636,853 (Stephens Jr.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that with respect to claims 6-9, Stephens Jr. does not teach the claimed invention. As previously discussed, Stephens Jr. describes a thick-client embodiment where user instruction program (302) sends a search request to a server (at step 406 in Fig. 4 of Stephens Jr.), the server instruction program (304) sends results back to the client (at step 414 in Fig. 4 of Stephens Jr.) and the user instruction program (302) executing on the client then formats the results and presents them for interaction with the user (at steps 416-434). This approach is most similar to the depiction of the prior art shown in Fig. 2 of the present invention where the server 16 is sending out the search requests and collecting the search results, except that the search results are formatted by a thick client application 30 as shown in Fig. 3 of the present invention, rather than the thin-client browser program 20 as shown in Fig. 2.

In contrast, as shown best in Fig. 5 of the present invention, the invention as claimed in claim 6 has a thin-client browser 20 that sends a request 52 to the multi-plexor server 50 which then package a search request 56 that is sent back to the thin-client browser 20 which turns around and sends the packaged search request out to the various content search servers 14, 16 and gets information directly back from those content search servers 14, 16. The routing and packaging of requests as claimed by claims 6-9 of the present is very different than the approach

shown in Fig. 4 of Stephens Jr. Specifically, there is no "packaged reply from the networked server" that is sent to the networked browser client which causes the networked browser client "to issue a plurality of service requests from the networked browser client to content information on the networked computer system". The server in Stephens Jr. directly issues the service requests, gathers the information and then reports the results back to the client. There is nothing about the process of Stephens Jr. that describes the creating of a "packaged reply" that is returned to and then issued by the thin-client browser. In this way, the server in the claimed invention of claims 6-9 does not occupy the position of middleman between the client and the Internet as taught by Stephens. Jr. As such, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established.

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Claim Rejections – Section § 103

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Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,636,853 (Stephens Jr.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,177,936 (Cragun). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that, in addition to the arguments previously made with respect to claims 6-9, claim 10 is patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 13, and claim 11 is patentable for the same reasons as set forth with respect to claims 2 and 3.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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